

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Before a lifter holding a group of substrates is immersed in a heated treating solution, the lifter is immersed in the phosphoric acid solution to preheat the lifter to substantially the same temperature as the phosphoric acid solution. The temperature of the phosphoric acid solution is prevented from lowering under the influence of the lifter when the group of substrates held by this lifter is immersed in the phosphoric acid solution. Consequently, variations in treatment occurring among the substrates treated collectively are suppressed.